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California GARDEN

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JUNE-JULY, 1967

VOL. 58 NO.



FLORAL EVENTS

JUNE-JULY, 1967

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION PROGRAMS

Third Tuesday, 8 p.m., Floral Building, Balboa Park

Chairman — Captain Charles E. A. Spiegel

Regular Meeting, June 21, 1967

Potluck Dinner for members. Watch for details in the Floral Association Newsletter. Eugene and Betty Cooper will show colored slides of animals in the Zoo, taken over a period of years.

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION CLASSES FLORAL BUILDING, BALBOA PARK

For information, call Mrs. Roland Hoyt, Chairman, 296-2757

Flower Arrangement Demonstration Classes will meet on May 29, 1967. Classes will be discontinued during the Summer months. For information on Fall Classes, call Mrs. Roland Hoyt, Chairman, 296-2757.

FLOWER SHOWS

June 24—July 4th SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR
Fairgrounds, Del Mar

June 24-25 FUCHSIA & SHADE PLANT SHOW, 13th ANN.
Sat. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. "Fuchsias in Harmony"
Sun. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Orange Co. Fairgrounds, Costa Mesa
CALIFORNIA NATIONAL FUCHSIA SOCIETY

July 22-23 BEGONIA & SHADE PLANT SHOW
Sat. 1:00-5:30 L. A. Arboretum—301 N. Baldwin, Arcadia, Calif.
Sun. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

Aug. 5-6 DAHLIA SHOW
Sat. 2-8 Conference Building, Balboa Park
Sun. 10-6 SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY

EDITORIAL

The two color covers on CALIFORNIA GARDEN are the gifts of fine public spirited men. One man prefers to be anonymous. This issue's cover is the gift of Mr. Mervin S. Harris, Sr. of Encinitas and M. S. Harris, Jr., of Huntington Beach. All of them feel that color can best express the beauty and quality of splendidly-grown specimen plants.

These men have reinforced their convictions by their gifts in order that all members of the garden world should reach the awareness that in sharing together all of the co-operative labors that were necessary for this loveliness, we reach the highest ideals of the plantsman.

The effectiveness of the color covers is due to the efforts of many working together to create beauty. Each contributed the part that he knows best and in which he is therefore most skilled. Without any one of these skills, the resulting loveliness could have not come into being. First the

author of the article in our magazine has enthusiastically grown his chosen plant, worked with its growing needs, watched, learned and recorded its growth habits. Then our writers have disclosed their knowledge of successful handling of their plants to you, who are interested in learning to develop the same fine specimens because you believe in gardening and its enrichment both to the individual and to the community.

The photographer and those who developed the color prints used their skill to depict its beauty. Those who worked on the color separations, and next the meticulous care and accuracy of the processes of the color printing: these added the next note to the symphony of harmony. The typesetters and the printers all played their part in the production of the resultant whole.

Nothing just happened. It was all the result of planning and then of cooperation.



Floral Association

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Among our Contributors

Jean Morley, in San Diego since 1936, is interested in citizen participation in improvement of urban environment. She was a member of Mayor Dail's Citizen Park Study Committee, and also is a member of the Sierra Club, Citizens Coordinate and the Audubon Society. She has written for California Garden previously.

Ralph E. Kircher of Imperial Beach, feels that he is better known for his work with gladiolus as he was a Founder Member of the American Gladiolus Society. But he can grow delphiniums that are just as spectacular as his glads.

Donald Betts, Encinitas plantsman, is well-known to long-time readers of CALIFORNIA GARDEN. We welcome him back and hope that his work at Shoreline Nursery will not keep him too busy to share more of his knowledge with us.

Bill Gunther of Del Mar, is vice president of the San Diego Imperial Counties Iris Society and Associate Editor of the Spuria Iris Society Newsletter. He is a retired Navy Officer who plays the cello in two orchestras as a hobby, besides growing spectacular irises and corresponding with hybridizers all over the world.

Byron H. Geer is well-known for his regular column on orchid care in CALIFORNIA GARDEN. He is the orchid specialist at Walter Andersen's Nursery. "Ask Byron Geer" is the word whenever a hobbyist grower is in difficulties. He grows orchids of many types at his home.

Betty Hale Newton says "I enjoy the blend of history and sunshine that is Old Roses." In 1957 a friend sent me a catalog of Old Roses. Since then I've been trying to unravel the skeins of rose ancestry. Each rose represents a time that I would like to know better."

Helen Hegyi of Escondido, is a knowledgeable member of both the Palomar and the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Societies. Whenever she meets a new and unknown specimen, she gets to work to learn its name, family and all about it as she adds it to her collection.

Robert H. Calvin of Solana Beach, will be remembered by many as he has done our column on Down-to-Earth Gardening in its earlier days. He has been a Landscape Designer and Licensed Landscape Contractor for over 20 years and his work is to be found all down the Coast from Orange to San Diego Counties.

CALIFORNIA GARDEN

KNOW GROW SHOW

June - July, 1967

Vol. 58

No. 3

THE COVER

Hydrangeas grown in Paul Ecke Greenhouses, Encinitas. Color Cover courtesy of Mr. Mervin S. Harris, Sr. and M. S. Harris, Jr. of H & M Graphics of Huntington Beach.

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CALIFORNIA GARDEN

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Let's All Fight Tumbleweeds

"This is the time to start controlling Russian thistle, better known as tumbleweed," says Morris L. Johnson, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner in charge of the weed and rodent control division of the County Department of Agriculture.

Tumbleweed is probably the number one nuisance weed in San Diego County, and it is difficult to control because it thrives under adverse conditions and seeds itself prolifically. Proper timing of control measures is important, and now, when the plants are young, control can be obtained most successfully.

The State, County, and City road divisions control weeds along their respective roadways, but it is the responsibility of landowners to control them on their own property. Some cities and fire districts require that weed infested areas be cleaned up to prevent their becoming fire and safety hazards when they dry out and begin to blow across roadways.

"In small areas, mowing or hoeing the plants when they are small is the most effective control measure," Mr. Johnson said. Where this is not practical, many excellent chemical weed-killers are available through local nurseries, chemical houses, or stores. Mr. Johnson cautioned that users of weed-killers should be very careful to follow directions for use printed on the label of any chemical purchased.

HEIGH HO!

COME TO THE FAIR

THERE'S BEAUTY THERE

FOR ALL TO SHARE

Plant California Poppies

Our golden California Poppies will again be turning the slopes and waste areas of our state to the same flaming gold that the early Spanish explorers saw and marveled and called the land El Dorado.

Germain's Inc., Seedsman since 1871, are sponsoring a "Beautify America" contest for young people and others and offering more than 1000 prizes. Thirty First Prizes will be Rose Gardens consisting of 30 outstanding rose plants plus rose care kits. The firm will honor the winners by donating duplicate Rose Gardens in their names to a public park or recreation center in their community, as a contribution to the national Beautify

America program. There is also a variety of smaller prizes offered.

A Mission Bells seed packet introduced by Germain's contains seeds for planting and an official entry blank and four suggested landscape plans. The entry form must be filled out and returned before midnight August 15, 1967 together with a statement of 50 words or less on "How I used Mission Bell California Poppies for landscaping." The entries will be judged by independent judges whose decisions will be final.

Many youth groups and individuals are planning to enter and make our hills and slopes again sing with color.



Leo Volz

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Green Begets Green

by Jean Morley



Arrow points to large new house in Mission Hills which presents stark lines of roof and curb.

Union Title Photo

MOST of us feel better in surroundings that include living plants. When we drive through cities we are visiting, we notice those areas that have big trees, lawns, landscaping. We remark, "This is the kind of place I'd like to live in, do business in, or return to visit." In San Diego such places include La Jolla, Point Loma, Mission Hills, parts of Kensington and others.

We are not alone in our feeling for greenness. Businessmen experienced in analyzing real estate place "greenness" high on the list of what makes land and buildings valuable.

These are the men of the John Burnham and Company, dealers in mortgage loans, real estate, and insurance. It has been the company policy since the Spring of 1959 to give a tree to each customer receiving a new loan. Usually the trees are planted at homes; some enhance business establishments. To date almost 1200 gift trees have been planted in San Diego city and county.

Each recipient of a Burnham tree gift certificate makes his selection from about 25 varieties of trees. The nurseryman's list describes the special attributes of the trees that grow well

in our climate. The nurseryman will also give instructions on planting and care.

Over the years Burnham and Company has kept records of the kinds of trees planted: orange, pepper, jacaranda, acacia, magnolia. Pine is perhaps the most popular now. Shade trees are definitely preferred to flowering fruit trees.

How fast do the trees grow? That depends on the variety. One customer reported that his tree, a *pittosporum undulatum*, was about 6 feet tall upon receipt in 1960 and is 15 feet tall now. It has been estimated that a \$7.50 tree, when it reaches maturity, can be worth \$1000 to \$1500. Trees are a real investment. They pay dividends—that are non-taxable! Another Burnham customer used his certificate to plant a birthday tree for his 5-year-old. The boy can watch the tree grow. He can play in its shade, look at it from his window. And if he inherits the house some day, the property will be more valuable because of "his" tree.

In encouraging home owners to plant additional trees on their property, a Burnham official made the following statement: "Homes in neighborhoods where every residence has several trees almost invariably command higher prices than ones in areas where there are fewer trees . . . Today . . . more and more San Diegans are planting colorful, attractive shade trees . . .



← Same house about 20 years later. Planting beautifies and softens lines. It is now a home.

Betty Mackintosh

Imagine the wonderful new appearance of San Diego if every home owner were to plant just one tree this year." Similarly, a statement from an article entitled "Plants have Cash Value" reads: "... trees, lawns, shrubbery and decorative plants make a distinct difference in the value of a home."

In San Diego a second firm has adopted the idea. Dixieline Lumber Company will soon be giving tree gift certificates to customers starting new houses.

Is this done elsewhere in the USA? Not to our knowledge. We are hoping that this magazine, with its wide circulation, may inspire similar programs elsewhere. In addition to improving community values, the policy helps other companies, such as nurseries and landscape gardeners.

In addition, any home owner can improve the value of his real estate by extending the greenness *beyond* his own property line. This may be done by encouraging neighbors to plant trees—or by working on other property (with permission, of course!). Take the example of one San Diegan. He lives in a canyon that was once dominated by eroded hillsides, bulldozed areas overgrown with weeds, and vacant lots. He planted eucalyptus, magnolia, acacia trees along the canyon's only road, on vacant lots in a place that would not interfere with future buildings, and in certain locations beyond his property line to serve him as screening. Not only did he plant, but also he watered. Now visitors to his home compliment him on the attractive canyon he found for his home. He has gained many years of visual pleasure, as have his neighbors whose windows overlook the canyon. His property in a green area is more valuable. Even the absentee landlords now have more valuable vacant building sites because of the trees.

Maybe you are not a land owner. What can you do then to insure the community's attractiveness? Ask your landlord to make his area greener. Explain the dollars and cents value.

As customers, all of us can use our influence with the places with which we do business. Earlier in this article it was mentioned that some of the

recipients of a tree certificate use it to enhance business establishments. One of the most successful landscaping projects in downtown San Diego is that of the John Burnham Company itself. Passersby, businessmen and downtown residents, often stop to admire the trees (tall as the building) and the flowers beneath the trees in the patios that open to the street.

Other businesses have made attempts to improve the appearance of their buildings with landscaping. Usually they fail to keep it up. Would you do business with a firm that does not keep the windows and floors of its building clean? In short, is exterior landscaping upkeep any different from interior sparkle and shine? Or, what would you think of a bank that let its landscaping investment deteriorate?

Any business executive should be happy to be complimented on his company's landscaping; he should also be interested in customer comments on adequate landscaping maintenance. Here is your opportunity to help improve your community's appearance. Speak up—politely, of course! And don't limit your efforts to single buildings; include the shopping centers you frequent, too.

Real estate development is a business that has a great influence on the green appearance of your community. Which developer provides landscaping beyond the minimal requirements (for example, extra large trees)? Which developer is sensitive to the effects of cutting slopes and either (1) puts proper and maintainable plantings on

(continued on page 9)



→
Birthday tree, now grown taller than the boy whose adult memories will center around this tree.

Betty Mackintosh

Growing Delphiniums for Show and Home

by Ralph E. Kircher

REGARDLESS of the variety you grow, the time and effort spent will be of minor consequence when you view the first bloom of delphiniums whether it be white, pink, lavender, light blue or the deepest blue imaginable.

Any of the following varieties;—Belladonna, Bellamosum, Wrexham, Chinese, or the ever popular Giant Pacific strains have distinctive forms and uses.

The Belladonna strain, a light blue, and Bellamosum type, of darker coloring, are of rather blunt spikes and more loosely arranged flowers, therefore more easily used in arrangements with other flowers. The two strains grow to an average height of three feet and should be planted in front of the Giant Pacific and Wrexham types.

The Wrexham strain, developed in England, is commonly identified as a Hollyhock type. They grow to a height of six feet and have a full color range from the faintest blue to the darkest hue of violet;—some spikes will be of pastel tones of pink and lavender blendings.

The Chinese Delphiniums have low-growing many-branched stems, and do not have the color range of the afore mentioned varieties, nor conformation of stems as the Giant Pacific or Wrexham strains have.

Pacific Giants are the most popular strain of Delphiniums, and are often the only types that can purchased at your local nursery. With good growing conditions, they make massive spikes six to eight feet tall and in a full range of color from purest white through many shades of blue, mauve, lavender and deep indigo,—many with contrasting eyes. A well grown planting of this strain can be the sensation of any garden. If the grower is Show-minded, ribbons, awards and trophies can be his with good staging.

The new seed crop of most varieties is generally available in July. If the grower desires to start his own seedlings, so as to obtain specific colors or strains, plans should be made for planting as soon as seed can be purchased. A good loamy planting mix plus adequate moisture, will assure you of good germination. Transplant your seedlings when the second set of leaves are well formed, either to flats for further growing, or directly to the garden.

If prize blooms are desired the first season, year-old clumps or potted plants must be obtained from your favorite nursery, in late winter or early spring.

Delphiniums grown along the coast should be planted in a sunny location in the garden. Further inland, filtered shade will promote better growth.

Soil preparation is most important

for maximum results. A good rich soil, deeply spaded and well drained is most essential. Well-rotted manure, compost or planting mix spaded in to a ten inch depth, several days before planting time, to allow for settling, will provide your seedling transplants a good start, for a successful season of surprises. Delphiniums are heavy feeders and respond to periodic treatments of your favorite balanced fertilizer. At planting time, work a cup-full of lime or bonemeal into the bottom of the planting hole before setting in the plant. When planting, be sure that the crown of the plant is above the ground level. As new growth starts, check regularly for snail or slug infestations and treat accordingly with baits, for control. When the plants are six inches tall give them a light application of a balanced fertilizer and keep them cultivated.

If spikes are to be exhibited, terminal shoots or branches should be removed as soon as possible. In other words all side branches must be pinched out so that only the main spike remains. Use great care not to damage or remove leaves in the process of pruning as the balance of the spike will be impaired.

When cutting spikes, leave at least six inches of stem on the plant, as new shoots appear, remove the old stalk and give the plant another light

application of fertilizer. In some sections, birds and rabbits can be a nuisance. As new growth appears, you may be forced to use wire cages or screens for protection of the plant from their ravaging.

Two seasons of bloom is usually the maximum from the average plant, since under good growing conditions, clumps tend to bloom themselves out. But as in all forms of flowers, exceptions are the rule. If plants do outlast the average expectancy of life, the resulting blooms are not always satisfactory as the clumps tend to send up a myriad of spikes that are well below normal quality and not worth the effort of growing.

I have no logical excuse or reason for my inability to grow a good spike of the Sir Galahad (white) variety. After several efforts ending in failure, I will try again, growing from fresh seed. There is always something chal-

lengingly new to be learned from these beauties.

To date the only pests causing injury to the young plants have been snails and slugs. These can be easily controlled by regular periodic applications of a good brand of snail pellets or meal.

In a new plant, the first two sets of bloom are usually not of maximum quality. By the time the third set of spikes appear, the clump has matured so as to produce the desired growth characteristics associated with the variety you are growing. So do not let yourself be discouraged by lack of size in your initial blooms.

Good healthy plants, periodic feeding, sufficient moisture (deep watering) plus a well prepared garden plot and proper cultivation are the requirements for a successful experience with the growing of Delphiniums.

(continued from page 7)

such areas or (2) leaves native vegetation—both actions designed to prevent erosion and ensure greenness of environment? When you find such a businessman, steer your friends and newcomers to him for their home purchases; for a really good developer deserves encouragement. When you find a businessman who does not meet such standards, ask him questions that show you consider greenness an important factor in home selection.

As a resident of San Diego, you are one of the stockholders of the "business" of running our City and Port District. Too often, in modern urbanization, public agencies are involved in greenery removal. For example, Point Loma residents will recall that, because of interference with overhead wires all trees were removed from one side of a formerly tree-lined street. Today anyone using the street will see greenness against the sky on one side; on the other, poles and wires.

San Diego does have some tree-adding activities, two of which will be mentioned. Notice the trees as you drive along Meade Avenue; this is a sample of the beneficial effect of the major-street-tree-planting program our city has had one year.* In the coming months, watch for new greenness in the Harbor Drive area between the airport and Broadway. If you like the new look, thanks are due the City Council and Harbor Commission, who voted public money for this environment-improving purpose.

The John Burnham and Company has started something worthwhile. It has called attention to the need for greenness and has introduced an imaginative way of getting community action underway. You, individually, can be imaginative and active in strengthening the movement this company initiated. You can increase the greenery in your environment, make your surroundings the kind of place you enjoy. In so doing, you will increase the value of your property, and neighborhood, and city. Remember, green begets green.

*For an authoritative discussion of street-tree planting, see Dec.-Jan. 1967 issue of CALIFORNIA GARDEN.



Large spike of Pacific Giant Delphinium Showing Flowerets and Graceful Buds at Tip.

Betty Mackintosh

HYDRANGEAS

Bold, Colorful, Spectacular

by Donald Betts

IN the spring of the year when many of our plants put forth blossoms that add so much grace and beauty to our gardens, no plant is more striking and colorful than the well-known florist Hydrangea. In fact, a picture of a specimen growing in the Paul Ecke greenhouses at Encinitas, is shown on the cover of our magazine for this month.

Hydrangeas have been well-known and well-beloved throughout our county and our country and the world for many generations, and are closely interwoven with the earliest childhood memories of many of us. Consequently at this time of the year when this beautiful plant begins to be so much in evidence around us, it might be interesting to delve a bit into its background, character, and culture. Perhaps we can come up with something of value that will add to our appreciation and enjoyment of the plant.

So, first of all, what's in a name? Well, the name Hydrangea comes down to us from the Greek words

hydor, meaning water, and *aggeion*, meaning vessel. This refers to the cup-shaped fruits which set on the plant after fertilization of the flowers has taken place. Next perhaps we would like to have some idea of where the plant fits into the scheme of things in the plant kingdom. It is an important genus in the Saxifrage family and contains some thirty-five species, many of which are cultivated for their showy flower clusters. Most of these are Asiatic or North American in origin, but the genus Hydrangea actually ranges from South America to Java. The great majority of the species are deciduous shrubs, but a few are vines climbing by rootlets. The common Hydrangea *H. paniculata grandiflora* has been planted so much in gardens throughout the country that we tend to take it for granted. However, its magnificent masses of white bloom, whether as a large shrub or trained up as a small tree, are exceedingly handsome. Besides, it is an easy plant to grow in the garden and is relatively

trouble-free. So it will always be popular with those of us who care for the living beauty of plants.

The species, which is illustrated on the cover of this issue of our magazine, is *Hydrangea macrophylla*. This is the species widely known both here and abroad as *Hortensia*. It was originally a shrub grown in Japan, where it was cultivated for centuries and where there are a great many named varieties. But it has long been the hydrangea of professional florists throughout the civilized world, who bring it along every year in pots and tubs to give us beautiful blossoms in the spring and summer.

Over the years a great deal of painstaking and brilliant hybridizing has been done with the florist hydrangea, so that ever more beautiful and interesting hybrids and varieties are appearing on the scene. This work is apparently now being performed for the most part by European and American plantmen, who have done a very excellent job indeed, as witness the

splendid new types now available. Some of these new hybrids are perhaps a trifle difficult to obtain. But they are definitely available as rooted cuttings to the determined gardener, although probably somewhat expensive as rooted cuttings go. And so, for those who might be interested in pursuing this further, here is a brief list of some of the better hybrids now available.

Kuhnert—a blue German hybrid.

Merritt's Blue, or Bodensee—a beautiful blue German hybrid.

Merritt's Supreme—a red German hybrid.

Merveille and Strafford—French hybrids pink to red, but hard to change over to blue.

Red Star—a Belgian hybrid that blues very well.

Rose Supreme—an American hybrid, vigorous pink that can be shifted to lavender.

Todi—Swiss hybrid, with small red flowers but many of them.

White Regula—a good American white hybrid.

Sister Therese—largest white blooms, a French hybrid.

Engel's White—good strong grower, lasts in bloom longer than Sister Therese, a German hybrid.

Finally, in this connection, it would be well to point out that there is one excellent Belgian hybrid now available in plant form to the gardeners of our area, because it is now being grown in quantity at the Ecke greenhouses of Encinitas. This is a hybrid called **Red Cap** and is a particularly good red with unusually large flowers. However, this plant is *not* directly obtainable at the Ecke Greenhouses because they are wholesale only. It must be purchased through some reputable retail nursery in the area.

Speaking of red and blue and pink and lavender flowers inevitably brings up the question of how to shift the color in hydrangea blossoms. Basically the idea is this. In alkaline soils the chemical elements are tied up into insoluble compounds, so that the simple elements cannot be absorbed by the roots of a plant and be carried up into its various parts. But if the soil is of an acid nature, these compounds break down and the elements become free to be absorbed. Now the chemical element that causes the blue color in hydrangea blossoms is aluminum. Therefore, if the soil is acid, any

aluminum present will be absorbed by the roots of the hydrangea plant, travel up into the flowers, and turn them blue. In general our soils and water here in San Diego county tend to be strongly alkaline, so that our hydrangeas (other than the white) tend to be pale pink through rose to red. By converting the soil to an acid condition, the hydrangea flowers tend to shift from pale pink to pale lavender, from rose to blue, and from red to a rich purple-blue. The most effective way to do this is to add not merely a chemical to the soil that will give an acid reaction but one that will at the same time incorporate more aluminum. Such a compound is aluminum sulfate, which is readily obtained at any nursery or garden shop in your neighborhood. For best results an aqueous solution should be made at the rate of one pound of aluminum sulfate to five gallons of water. This should be applied copiously around the base of the hydrangea shrub about once a week from early spring until the last flowers have faded away.

So far as the basic outdoor care of *Hydrangea macrophylla* and its hybrids is concerned, here are a few pointers to bear in mind for our area. Inland where it is hot, they require strong protection from the sun in order to do well. Along the coast they will take more sunshine, but still it is not wise to plant them in the hotter and sunnier places. They do beautifully in filtered sunlight under trees or lath. And please bear in mind that the big blossoms need good light in order for them to hold a clear fresh color. If the location is too dark, the blossoms turn muddy-looking and quite unattractive. The soil ought to be rich in organic matter, and quite porous, so that there is good drainage and aeration. Above all, remember the water. Hydrangeas like lots of water!



If one day somebody should prove kind enough to present you with a lovely potted florist Hydrangea this spring, set it in a saucer by a bright window but where the hot sunlight does not stream in upon it. And water it heavily every day. If you don't, the flowers will wilt and then collapse, then will go the lush green leaves. If you catch it in time it will come back, but if it should wilt down too far, no amount of water will restore the blossoms to their lovely freshness. Truly, this is a case of getting out of a thing just what you put into it! Because if you will trouble yourself to give your Hydrangea this simple everyday care, it will hold its blossoms and grace your home for months.

Then at last, when the flowers are finally gone for this season, prune them away, tap the plant out of the pot, and set it in your garden in the sort of place indicated above. Thereafter just give it general garden care: plenty of water at regular intervals, a good balanced fertilizer once in a while during the growing season, and prune to control size of plant and form. If you wish for large flowers, prune out some of the stems early in the growing season. If you wish for smaller flowers and many of them, do not thin out the stems. Your plant of course is deciduous, so if you wish to prune heavily in order to make the plant lower and bushier, an excellent time to do this is toward the end of the winter before the new growth begins. And remember this, too. Propagation by cuttings is relatively easy. Seeds are in general not available on the plants because those big blossoms on your Hydrangea are all sterile.

Now and again one sees "Lace-cap" Hydrangeas, whereon the cluster of tiny fertile flowers are surrounded by an outer ring of the big sterile ones, but this is not usual. So you must increase the number of your plants by taking cuttings in spring or summer from vigorous young wood. Happily this is not difficult. I once knew a man in our area who possessed a very handsome home surrounded by hundreds of large and very beautiful hydrangea bushes, all of which had been started from the cuttings off of one fine specimen he had purchased years ago in a nursery!

So, why don't you try your luck?

←
Closeup of Hortensia Blossoms.

Betty Mackintosh

Let's Go Native —

With our Native Irises of California

by Bill Gunther

MANY thousands of years ago—according to the anthropologists—small groups of Asian people crossed the Bering Straits from Asia to Alaska. After they reached North America these people, and their children, wandered southward. When a family group found an area which had a plentiful food supply they remained in that area, and multiplied. With time, the people in each area developed their own language and customs. With more time, evolutionary processes brought to each group the individual characteristics which came to differentiate the various American Indian tribes.

Thousands of years before those first Americans crossed the Bering Straits many other forms of life had traversed the same route. Among these, according to botanists, was the seed of an early type of a Siberian iris.

That iris seed sprouted somewhere along the northwestern coast of the new world, and it grew into an iris plant which bore more seeds. In the course of time colonies of these irises became isolated by mountain ranges and forests; the various colonies

adapted themselves to their individual environments through the evolutionary processes of natural selection. In time the groups became so differentiated that now, under recognized botanic standards, there are eleven distinct species of wild irises—each of which has the same original ancestry. In botanic terminology, these eleven related species collectively constitute a group or series which is designated as the *Californicae* series within the genus *Iris*.

In addition to the eleven iris species of series *Californicae*, there are four additional species of irises which grow wild in the west coast area; these four other species do not restrict their ancestry to the same Siberian iris from which the eleven *Californicae* species were derived.

Most, but not all, of these various species can be crossed with other species; the offspring of a union involving more than one species is known as a "hybrid". When a bee carries pollen from the flower of one species to the flower of a different, but compatible, species, the progeny are termed "natural hybrids". Among the many thousands of individual iris plants growing wild in California there probably are more natural hybrids than there are plants which represent a pure species.

A person who substitutes for a bee in the function of pollinating a flower does not like to be called a substitute, but is always pleased if referred to as a "hybridizer". By selecting parent plants which have desired qualities, and by screening their progeny to



→
Pacific Coast Cultivar RIPPLE
ROCK. Blossoms are 4 inches with
Petals Ruffled and Flared.

Photo by Bill Buck

select individuals which most accentuate that quality, a hybridizer can evolve flowers with colors and/or form not found in the wild; these flowers are referred to as "garden hybrids".

In popular usage, all the iris species and all the natural iris hybrids of the Pacific Coast of North America are called "California natives" or "Pacific Coast natives". The garden hybrids which have been derived from them, and which have been named, registered, and introduced into commerce, are called "cultivars". (The word "cultivar" is a condensation of the words "cultivated varieties"). The collective term "Pacific Coast irises" includes all the species previously referred to plus all the natural hybrids plus all the garden hybrids derived from those species.

In San Diego County, the place to see native irises growing in the wild is at Lake Cuyamaca. Big clumps grow about a half-mile south of the dam along the road to Descanso; they are on the downhill (east) side of the road and only about twenty feet from the road itself, so it is not necessary to go hiking to see them. During most years, they are in best bloom there in late May or early June. These irises are representative of a true species, one of the "other four" species mentioned previously; the botanic species name is "*Iris missouriensis*". This species, with many variations and "forms", grows wild in many locations from the Rockies to the Pacific, and into Canada and Mexico.

It is illegal to dig up wild plants at the Cuyamaca location, but a few seeds may be collected anytime from late June to the first snowfall. These seeds, if planted about a half inch deep, will sprout during the following spring; the small plants should be kept very well watered until established; the first bloom will be about a year after germination.

Like all irises, *Iris missouriensis* is a perennial. But unlike most native irises of the Pacific Coast, the foliage of *Iris missouriensis* goes completely dormant in the winter, then springs up again from the rhizomatous root system in the spring. The stems of this iris are wonderfully stiff and erect; the blossoms are highly veined with a slate-blue color on white. The flowers make a fine conversation item when used in arrangements, and the plant serves the same function in the garden.

Aside for its novelty value, *Iris missouriensis* in any of its wild forms is limited as a garden subject because of the relatively small size of its flowers, the relatively narrow width of the floral petals, the lack of variety in its floral color, and by the lengthy dormant period of the plant each year. Appropriate comment is that all these deficiencies might be overcome by hybridizing it with *Iris longipetala* and/or *Iris douglasiana*; it will cross with either—but very reluctantly.

Nearly all of the Pacific Coast iris species and hybrids, if once established under appropriate conditions, will thrive in San Diego's climate. They grow well in full sun, in partial sun, or in almost complete shade. They want good drainage, and they should be planted in a mix containing peat moss or other humus; this holds the moisture and helps maintain soil acidity—both of which they like.

All of the Pacific Coast iris species can be reproduced readily from seed. Seeds of these species can be collected from the wild, or purchased by mail order from seed specialty houses, or in some cases may be obtained from hobbyists in the local iris society.

But, unhappily, the species are not the best garden subjects.

For home garden purposes, the garden hybrids or cultivars are far more suitable than are the species. The flowers of the cultivars are larger, the petals are wider, the colors are better, and the plants are more vigorous and adaptable because of their hybrid heritage. Those specific plants or "clones" which have been introduced as cultivars have been selected because they are the best.

Pacific Coast iris cultivars make ex-

cellent garden plants because they are almost completely pest and disease free; they are perennials of compact growth-habit; the foliage is an attractive glossy blue-green color the year round and never needs screening during off seasons. Among the various cultivars the height of foliage and flowers varies from about six inches to about two feet; this makes them good border plants. The bloom season in San Diego is at a peak in April, but some cultivars are in bloom for up to six months of each year. The blossoms are harmonious, they are long lasting as cut flowers, and they are outstanding when used in arrangements. Colors include white, tan, yellow, maroon red, purple, blue, and various combinations and patterns of those colors.

Unlike the situation with the species, the hybrid cultivars can not be reproduced from seed. Although most of the cultivars will bear seed, such a seed will grow into a plant which is quite different from its parent. In the vast number of instances the seedling will be inferior to its parent, and in no case can it be given the cultivar name of its parent. This is because in the processes of genetics no hybrid will come "true" from seed, and because the cultivar has been pre-selected as outstanding while its unselected seedling progeny is likely to be just a middling average in the multitude.

For the reasons indicated, iris cultivars can be multiplied only by vegetative divisions. In the case of the Pacific Coast irises this dividing can be accomplished successfully only when new root growth is in process; this occurs twice yearly—just after the first fall rains and just in advance of the

(continued on page 16)



Photo by Bill Buck

Miniature Cymbidiums; Think Small and Charming

by Byron H. Geer

THE miniature Cymbidium, which in recent years has created quite a stir in the Orchid world, is by no means a new thing. In point of fact, the first miniature hybrid outdates many of us, since it was flowered

and registered in the year 1903. This was a cross of the standard diploid species *C. Lowianum* and the miniature diploid species *C. tigrinum*. Nothing is known of the plant or the flower from this hybrid, but it is

assumed from the diploid parents that the flower must have been open, stringy and star-shaped. Even so, it is surprising that the further possibilities of cross breeding in miniature species were not recognized. From 1903 to 1941 a new miniature hybrid using different species made an appearance about every three years. These crosses also seem to have died on the vine, although in many cases the miniature species parent has been used with marked success in present day breeding.

In the year 1941 a hybrid of the miniature species *C. Pumilum* by the standard species *C. Insigne* was made and flowered in England. The cross was registered one year later as Cymbidium Minuet, and one clone presented to the Royal Horticultural Society for judging was given an Award of Merit by that august body. This was the first hybrid in which the species *C. Pumilum* had been used as a parent, and the erect spike habit, pleasing display of flowers with clear, bright coloring together with a free blooming habit all added up to quality and complete charm never before seen in a miniature hybrid. These, plus the Award of Merit, were enough to send breeders off on a new tangent. The miniature Cymbidium had come to the fore, and a scant twenty five years later has assumed a most important role in the hybridizer's scheme of things.

Why, when Cymbidium enthusiasts have spent years developing larger and ever larger flowers, should the miniature Cymbidium suddenly assume a key place in breeding programs? To answer the question suppose we review for a moment what we are trying to accomplish in the production of the perfect Cymbidium plant, either standard or miniature.



Numerous graceful arching sprays of Miniature Cymbidiums contribute to their popularity with the new grower.



1) We are looking for a flower in which the petals and sepals are broad, flat and not twisted. The flower should be round, with the sepals and petals overlapping. They should have clear, bright colors, or, if marked, the shadings should be distinct and pronounced; above all, pleasing to the eye.

2) The flower spike, either erect or arching, should carry its flowers well above the foliage. If a pendant spike, it ought to be below the foliage so that the leaves do not interfere with visual enjoyment of the bloom. In any case, the flowers must be so spaced on the stem that they are seen individually and they must face outward to the viewer or be pleasingly displayed all around the spike.

3) Plant, flowers and leaves should be of harmonious size, proportioned properly, each to the other.

4) A *Cymbidium* should be free blooming with multiple spikes and a goodly number of flowers to each spike and, ideally, we would like to see *Cymbidiums* in bloom through all twelve months of the year.

5) A wider range of colors and shades than we presently have would be very nice. Currently we tend toward one end of the color spectrum. Why not violet, indigo and blue with their intermediate tints as well as green, yellow, orange and red? Why not, indeed, if we don't run out of time and patience.

6) Our perfect *Cymbidium* would be fragrant. Scent in a *Cymbidium* could add as much enjoyment as it does in the *Cattleya* complex. The genes for scent are there and available in many of the species, but time, patience and the imagination of the hybridizers alone will serve to fulfill this dream.

7) A more extended temperature tolerance is the last major goal of *Cymbidium* breeders. At present there are many areas in which other types of Orchids thrive, but where *Cymbidiums* cannot be grown because summer night temperatures remain too high for spike initiation. The Hawaiian Islands and south Florida are excellent examples. This situation can be changed, and some progress has been made along the line.

Alert readers will note about here that I have made no mention of the size of the ideal *Cymbidium* flower. This omission is deliberate, since I feel that the point is unimportant to

the hobbyist or the back yard gardener. The charm of the flower and its appeal to the eye is not necessarily governed by its size. Those who raise *Cymbidiums* for the cut flower market will disagree violently with me on this, claiming that the florists demand large flowers. Perhaps this is true, but I have seen dozens of flower arrangements and corsages using miniature blooms that were every bit as effective as their dinner plate sized brethren. I wonder in this instance whether demand has created supply or whether supply has dictated to demand.

In any case, given the above ideals as goals, where then do miniature *Cymbidiums* as miniatures fit into the picture? There are about twenty-five species of *Cymbidium* that can truly be classed as miniatures, and among these species can be found very im-

portant contributions to breeding programs leading to the perfection we seek. Not all genetic characteristics of these species are desirable, of course, and it is the hybridizer's job to pick and choose those attributes which he wishes to perpetuate. This is a matter of experience gained from the failures as well as the successes of himself and others; a matter of careful analysis of the genetic capabilities of given species and, in the absence of adequate background information, a matter of pure guesswork. Something is added to our knowledge with each new hybrid made, and even if that something is a clear 'don't do it again' indication, it is worth the effort. To date, the vast majority of the miniature hybrids have been made with half a dozen or so of the available species. Within the next few years we will see the



Multiple Spikes on Well Grown Miniature *Cymbidiums* Grown by Byron Geer.

Photo by Miles Gordon

results of crosses using most of the others. There are bound to be disappointments, but there will be breakthroughs too, with faltering steps being taken in the right direction.

Insofar as shape of the flower, erect spike habit, proper spacing of the flowers and pleasing proportion of the plant and inflorescence are concerned, breeders have made great strides in twenty-five years and can confidently predict even better progress in the future. Many of the miniature hybrids are free blooming, presenting seven to nine spikes all at once or in succession, on a plant blooming the second or third time. Even now miniatures may be found in bloom in August and a continuation of bloom on the same plant or different hybrids may be enjoyed through June.

We are certainly approaching the dream of Cymbidium flowers through the twelve months of the year. The wide color range into the blues and violets is not yet a reality and probably will not be for a number of years to come. Theoretically it is possible, since there is at least one species so dark in color that it is almost black. If the red could be bled out of the maroon, leaving the violet purple, we have the color. Then selective breeding for shape, spike habit, etc., and many years away, we have our good blue Cymbidium. Theory? Of course, but it has been done successfully with other flowers,—why not with Orchids?

Fragrance, so all-important to so many people, is a distinct probability. A number of the oriental species do have fragrant flowers and seem willing to pass this characteristic on to their progeny. Cymbidium Peter Pan (*ENSIFOLIUM* x *MIRETTA*) which scents the air for twenty feet around the plant when it is in bloom is an old favorite. A number of other crosses using fragrant species are near to blooming size, and the sweet smelling Cymbidium flower will be available to anyone within the next few years.

The tolerance of high night temperatures may be possible too, through the use of miniature species which grow and bloom freely under such conditions. Many miniature hybrids already exist which flower well in spite of night temperatures that discourage bloom on the standard Cymbidiums. Again this breeding objective is not to be accomplished overnight.

There are already certain advantages of the miniature hybrids over the standard Cymbidium. Their extended blooming season and multiple spike habit have been mentioned, but their greatest asset is probably the size of

the plant itself. With a few exceptions the miniature will take about one-third the growing space required for a standard. This makes them a natural for use as decoration within the home or for accent in the small garden. Where a standard Cymbidium dominates because of its size, the miniatures are properly scaled: in proportion for coffee table use;—never overbearing by sheer mass. This also is true of corsages and arrangements made from miniature flowers. You don't get the 'see-the-Orchids-walking-down-the-street-with-the-lady-behind-them' feeling.

All of which may give the impression that I have a grudge against standard Cymbidiums, and this is certainly not the case. I grow them and enjoy them. But, to me, the miniatures have a charm and grace not shared by the standards. I may be a minority of one in this attitude, but, judging from the immense and growing popularity of the miniatures, I think not.

Culture:

Cultural practices for the miniatures follow very closely the requirements of their big brothers. Their temperature range is somewhat wider in that they are more adaptable to both warmer and colder growing conditions by a few degrees.

They are generally quite rampant in growth, and even small plants will initiate multiple leads during or after blooming. They demand growing room, and the practice is to overpot slightly, allowing perhaps one quarter more room than would be allowed for a standard. Since they are galloping growers, they are also logically hearty feeders and need their rations consistently and often. As with the standards, watering must be watched carefully. Growth will slow down or stop completely if they are allowed to run dry.

The miniatures are somewhat more demanding than the standards in their light requirements, and react very favorably to light right down into the heart of the plant. All the light they can take without burning is still a perfectly good rule by which to work. As with the standards, though, the pastel colors should be shaded. A miniature in spike should be moved into shade only when the spike is first visible, or much later when the flowers are separated and oriented on the stem. Moving in the intermediate stage is much too likely to cause bud drop, or at best, an unpleasant bunching of the flowers. At all times the

miniatures resent crowding and must have fresh, buoyant, moving air around them.

It remains to be seen whether the goal of the perfect Cymbidium will ever be reached. We do know that most of our ideals are genetically possible, and that the miniature species open up new pathways where a dead end had been reached in the breeding of the standards. Many generations of miniature blood may be necessary to accomplish the objectives, but patience, fortunately is a cardinal virtue in any Orchid hybridizer.

We shall wait—and we shall see.

IRISES

(continued from page 13)

springtime blooming season. Nurserymen and hobbyists divide their large clumps at those times, usually setting the small divisions in individual pots or cans of planting mix, for rooting. An application of "root hormone" or vitamin B₁ and chelates is helpful at this time. Later, after they are established, the plants can be removed from the pots with roots and soil intact and set into the garden at any convenient time.

The nearest commercial nursery which has potted Pacific Coast iris cultivars in retail stock is the McCaskill Gardens, 25 South Michillinda Avenue, Pasadena. That nursery is open seven days per week except for Christmas and Thanksgiving.

The best garden display of Pacific Coast irises in any public garden is that of the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Claremont, California. Dr. Lee Lenz, the Director of that garden, is the world's foremost authority on Pacific Coast irises. The cultivars "Royal Californian" and "Ripple Rock", pictured in this issue, are two of his introductions. Bloom season for these irises at Claremont is at peak in March, but includes February and April. The Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden is open till 5 PM every day of the year except Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and the Fourth of July. Admission is free.

In San Diego, a comprehensive cut flower display of various Pacific Coast iris hybrids and species may be viewed each year at the Spring Iris Show. That show is held in the Conference Building in Balboa Park on dates announced in advance by the newspapers and by this magazine.

We'll see you there next spring.

Whaley House

Old Rose Garden's Fifth Spring

by Betty Hale Newton

THIS month the fragrance of ancient roses fills the backyard of the Thomas Whaley House in Old Town San Diego. The garden of more than eighty bushes, bearing roses dating from as early as 400 B.C., contrasts sharply with the empty vegetable patch ground which men of the Men's Garden Club and Floral Association planted one wet Saturday in March 1963. It has been four years now since those short-caned, thorny dormant plants were put in the ground. And now, the glory of the old roses in bloom is something to behold. May and early June are the climax of the old rose year, with blooms borne in a variety of forms unknown among modern Hybrid Teas. The aged Gallicas, Damasks, Albas, Bourbons, Mosses, Species, and more recent Teas and Hybrid Musks have overcome much to bring their nostalgic beauty to San Diegans. The purpose of this article is to record the trials and tribulations of these first years.

The roses have clearly survived. In spite of mildew, monarch butterflies, and well-meant mistakes, they've flourished. But sometimes I think they hum, "We Shall Overcome."

When beloved Roy Lawton, representing the newly-formed Men's Gar-

den Club, approached Dorothy Stemler of "Will Tillotson's Roses" in Watsonville about a public rose garden in this location, she had misgivings. She writes, "Yes, I drew the design for the garden and placed each plant. It was a job, and I remember how mad I was, because I often never hear again from the people to whom I donate rose plants for public gardens. The Whaley House group has been a shining exception, and I take it all back now." Thinking the plot larger than the thirty by forty feet it is, Mrs. Stemler donated eighty bushes. They had to be planted twelve and eighteen inches apart, although they often grow four and five feet tall and almost that wide.

Mr. Lawton had to hold the donated bushes in his garage for two weeks before the Board of Supervisors met and approved their planting. Then on March 2, 1963, the sandy adobe was graded level and turned over sloping to the south. No humus went into the soil, but ammonium sulfate was added

to offset the natural depletion of nitrogen expected by a heavy wood-shavings mulch.

After weekly watering, the first year's growth challenged with thorns and overhanging canes anyone who dared walk to the back of the garden. These are rampant growers. At the meeting of Old Rose Hips and Thorns that fall, rosarian Helen Carswell recommended cutting the percentage of nitrogen in the twice-a-year fertilizing, and watering far less often. These beauties had to be tamed. At a minimum the paths should be kept open for visitors.

I first saw these roses the day after planting, and as I ran in excitement from bush to bush reading name tags, I could see that the tallest bushes were planted in the back. Obviously visitors were to gaze up to the blooms and greenery in the north half of the garden. The years ahead may make this vision a reality, but it will be necessary first to remove some fuchsias planted in the middle of the envi-



→
The Alba Rose *Felicite Parmentier* (1834) blooms in a pink-white blend and has the delicate fragrance of almond extract.

sioned entrance and make certain other changes in the roses' care.

Twenty Moss Roses (off-shoots of the Centifolia and Damask families), including low hedges of 'Salet' and 'Alfred de Dalmas', flank the front of the garden where the visitor is meant to step in. Unfortunately this moss rose area receives shade up to two-thirds of the day from the porch and high roof-line; and in these conditions, so close to San Diego Bay, 'Salet' mildews disfiguringly and 'Alfred de Dalmas' fails to live up to its reputation as a continual bloomer. Today there are moss roses in the back of the garden too, because the near-constant shade and an overhanging red *Cestrum* forced the moving of 'Common Moss' (1696), 'Crested Moss', and dark 'James Mitchell.' This front portion of the garden also fights a continual battle with chlorosis, iron deficiency, because the cement of the porch area throws off lime, locking in the iron. After an application of iron chelates this spring, the foreground plants are vigorously green.

PRUNING

Energetic pruning by San Diegans who are used to modern roses has thwarted the plan of graduated plant heights. The old roses were cut back to 1½ to 3 feet in the Februaries of 1965 and 1966. It would probably be best to follow the suggestions of Mrs. Stemler in her catalog:

"Those that have one annual flowering should be treated as flowering shrubs. *Do not prune until after they bloom.* To create a bushy, many branched plant, shorten long canes by one-third and shorten side shoots to a few inches. If you wish, keep this up until the plant stops growing in the Fall . . . then forget the whole thing and look forward to profuse bloom the next Spring. After about two years it is a good idea to remove a few of the old canes, and new ones will grow from the base of the plant."

Graham Thomas, a devoted old-rose grower, writes in his *Shrub Roses of Today*:

"If the rose is not perpetual flowering, or expected to give hips, the pruning need not wait until February but can be done immediately after flowering, which will save the plant from feeding the unwanted branches during the rest of the summer: thus it will probably throw up a new shoot at once."

Of Hybrid Perpetuals (Whaley House features nineteen) Mr. Thomas suggests:

"They are much more vigorous (canes up to eleven feet in length) . . . most of them are rather erect and lanky, and it is useless to reduce those long shoots to about 3 feet to try to keep the bushes to reasonable size. The way to achieve a glorious display is to bend the new shoots over and tie them to the base of the neighboring plants; they will in this way bear flowers along their whole length . . . small twiggy growth can be spurpruned in the normal way in February."

Immediately north of the Moss Rose hedges on each side of the center path, the visitor will see the 'Green Roses, a China Rose oddity popular in the 1850's. To the right are eleven true Tea Roses and to the left a patch primarily of Bourbon and Portland-like roses. 'De Rescht', 'Rose du Roi', and 'Jacques Cartier' planted here are similar to some of the varieties that Mrs. Whaley grew in this garden a hundred and ten years ago.

The Tea Roses have been hardest hit by modern pruning. It is true that many of the oldest roses would get out of hand unless kept after, but the Teas are perfectly suited to our mild climate, rather self-contained, and never dormant. Ironically, despite their position in half shade, they are the most constant bloomers in the garden. The Tea's need for light pruning is shown by the stunted 1½ foot-high plants of 'Duchesse du Brabant' and her white sport and the fact that the bushes of the southeast edge of the cluster have never regained their early heavy, four-foot compactness. These are shrubs one can be proud of all year round as many Southern landscape architects know. In 1860 Robert Buist, a distinguished Philadelphia nurseryman, wrote of the Teas:

"The only pruning they require is to merely remove any old shoots to give room for those of younger growth, and to occasionally shorten any of extra length."

Graham Thomas advises that in pruning Tea Roses:

"The occasional removal of an old branch is very helpful, but the bushes build themselves up gradually and need to have a number of stems retained more or less permanently."

Unlike the evergreen Teas, the straight-growing Albas, in the back of the garden, were still nearly naked of foliage in April; and were, naturally, ugly. But it seems this is nature's built-in protection for them: they proffer no new growth until all danger of freezing spring weather is past.

Even in our mild climate the unique Albas, of which 'Felicite Parmentier' is illustrated, restrain themselves. The one true Centifolia in this garden, 'Tour de Malakoff', though it lives, *never* did well; it is another rose developed in a colder clime. The success or failure of rose families and individual varieties in our ever-temperate climate will be of interest to growers in other parts of the world.

The modern rose garden of nine hundred plants growing around the Moreton Bay Fig in Balboa Park reflects the attention that John Daly and his apprentice lavish on it for thirty man-hours each week under the supervision of Elmer Cook. But the Whaley House Old Rose Garden has gotten along and some years just that, with too much water, not enough water, and sometimes a rare spraying for mildew or insects. In 1963 Mr. Lawton donated forty pounds of fertilizer. But Whaley House Director June Reading and her assistants are always busy leading tours through the museum itself. Nevertheless, somehow they found time to water.

In the spring of 1965 the monarch butterflies discovered the plants, and after their larvae fed on the leaves, the rosebushes took on a lacy, but ragged, look. That ugly sticky stuff left by aphids was never hosed off either and added to the roses' forlorn appearance. The garden is also plagued by Bindweed, the insidious white morning glory, which in 1965 twined up into many of the bushes and carpeted paths. Covered with Bindweed this looks like Frances Hodgson Burnett's *The Secret Garden*. It is no wonder that few visitors stepped over the foot-high Algerian Ivy into the garden to see the roses individually. Perhaps we shouldn't feel too downcast though, for Descanso Garden's "The History of the Rose Garden" can look untended in late summer too.

Seeing a need and being plantsmen, the county gardeners have come to take more responsibility over the years, and as a result the garden is healthier and more inviting. When the old roses were planted, Joe Correa was tending these grounds as part of his regular route. Later Tom Arenz and now, Tony DiMeglio under Supervisor Bill Oyos have gradually offered the roses more of the routine care they need.

Mr. Richard Evans of the Whaley House staff waters the roses deeply once a month with additional soakings in between for a drought area at the back of the garden. Mr. Evans has coaxed even carnation-flowered 'Grootendorst Supreme' to bloom this

spring. In this area 'Nevada' lives but is not thriving following a vigorous first two years. The beauty of 'Nevada's' soft yellow-cream single blooms would charm the most stolid. The roses across the back of the garden compete with a Eugenia hedge and fight rapid water run-off to the front. Soon probably, the roots of the hedge will be cut as they would be in a private garden.

SOME DIED

Several of the old roses have died. Whether these were victims of a too-mild climate, root competition, unsuitable pruning or a combination of these and other causes would be difficult to determine. Perhaps some fatalities were inevitable. The first to expire was the German Shrub Rose 'Frulingsmorgen'; it barely made the first spring but had one delicate bloom. Next was 'Austrian Copper', the shocker with which Pernet-Ducher infused orange and yellow into modern roses in 1900. The replacement plant died the second year. Appleblossom-blooming 'Kathleen', a Hybrid Musk more adapted to our climate was moved to take 'Austrian Copper's' place after 'Kathleen's' careening fifteen-foot canes closed paths for two succeeding years. In the northwest corner this rose has room to spread and show its natural grace. Gone from the garden are: the mauve-rose 'Marchioness of Lorne'; the miniature Centifolias which bloomed before everything else, 'De Meaux' and 'Centifolia Minima'; that prickly Moss with quilled, four-inch flaming ruby blooms 'Deuil de Paul Fontaine', and 'Souvenir de Malmaison'. The garden's best Gallica, 'Charles de Mills' is struggling and may die. The roses that have died are missed because each brought it own particular beauty where everyone could share it. It is not enough that some of them are grown in private gardens here.

NAMES AND LABELS

Less worrisome than dying bushes, but still important, has been the problem of names. After four years most of the plastic labels have fallen off. Two old roses were not as labeled. Mrs. Stemler wrote us that our 'Coquette des Alpes' was masquerading and had been more authoritatively identified as 'Jacques Cartier'. And our 'Camaieux' shows no stripes for it is an unidentified purple rose. Perhaps it is one of the Gallicas which date back to the twelfth century in garden forms.

People ask how these old roses can live so long. The answer, of course, is through budding. Each variety may be given new or continued life by grafting its buds;—say from Josephine Bonaparte's garden or any of those of the old gold mining camps—on to new rootstock. And, given care, the old roses will thrive again. The growing appreciation of old roses in this country is attested to by the progressively thicker catalogs of the old rose specialists and the American Rose Society's inclusion of them in their ratings. Don't, however, be disappointed if you find them strange. Like avocados and olives they are often an acquired taste.

This article is a record of the garden. For information on rose ancestry visit your library or see an article in the June-July CALIFORNIA GARDEN of 1964. Note, though, that a rose matching the description of 'Rosa de Alejandria', which was carried by Spanish galleons to Cuba, Southern California, and Manila in the seventeenth century, was planted at Whaley House by descendants of Robert Louis Stevenson who grew it as 'Rose of Castile'. We are watching this bush with interest. *R. Damascena Bifera*, the oldest rose in the garden, is traditionally the 'Rose of Castile'.

* * *

Roses will make pragmatists of us yet; roses are said to demand clay; but most gardeners know they grow tallest on decomposed granite; in San Diego we should prune between mid-December and mid-February, but make an exception for 'Buccaneer'. The old rose garden at Whaley House is teaching us. With experience, we've learned how tough the old roses are. These bushes will need a trim in late June and every June. There are few sorer sights than forgotten bushes

drooping under hundreds of dead blossoms.

Dorothy Stemler in a 1963 letter wrote:

"I cut off old blooms of all the roses except those that set colorful hips. It's especially wise to cut off the old blooms on those that repeat, for that keeps them blooming. However, this is not true of the rugosa roses and the hybrid musks. They will keep on blooming whether old blooms are cut, or not, and they set wonderful hips at the same time . . . Its a big job to do this, but it makes the plants and the garden look neat."

THE YEARS AHEAD

The future of the Whaley House Old Rose Garden *should* have brick paths and permanent, dated name tags so even casual visitors may walk through and appreciate what is here. As far as I know, this is the only public old rose garden south of Descanso Gardens and Rose Hills in Los Angeles. Soon up-to-date maps of the garden will again be available at Whaley House. May and June will always be excellent months to see the roses because the oldest bloom *only* in the spring. Consistent care and appropriate pruning will assure that these roses will bloom for San Diego's 200th birthday and perhaps even for our children's children.

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Common Moss Rose

Calendar of Care

Down-to-Earth Gardening for June & July



by Robert H. Calvin

WITH warm and lazy days ahead—relax but don't give up. We still have to weed, spray, fertilize and water. But most of this would come under the heading of putting. Much of our time can be taken in enjoying the fruits of our handiwork and sharing it with others. We need to mulch and fertilize those plants that like it, also make sure the water we apply penetrates deep enough to encourage deep rooting. In the not too distant future, mulching will become all important to conserve moisture, for they tell us that our water bills will double or even triple. You will find a wide selection of mulching materials at nurseries and garden stores. Too expensive? They aren't cheap but by using them you can cut your water bill in half. Half finished compost makes the best mulch but you cannot buy it. If you happen to be one of those lucky people who has a compost bin to convert all of the garden debris into compost, you have the magic key to a beautiful garden. Mulching is the smartest thing you can do, it not only conserves water, it also keeps down weeds and adds to the humus content of your soil when you work it in at the time of preparing new planting beds. Humus not only increases the bacteria in your soil, it encourages earthworms. It improves the tilth and helps to break up hard subsoil which in turn improves drainage.

Although most of our time at this season should be spent in enjoying the garden, there are some plants that are better planted when the soil is warm. These include many of the tropical and subtropical plants. The tropical guava and pomegranate benefit from warm soil. If citrus, avocado, Macadamia nut and loquat were not set in early spring they may be set out now with good results. If you

have limited space don't overlook the dwarf citrus and don't be misled by the word dwarf;—most of them will eventually grow to eight feet in height and at least six to eight feet across at maturity. Be sure to protect the trunk of a young avocado with burlap on a lath frame otherwise it may sunburn. Many tropical flowering trees thrive when planted in summer. Some of the best are Jacaranda, Hong Kong Orchid, *Brachychiton acerifolium*, Kaffir Plum, Silver Tree, Schefflera, *Tupidanthus*, Firewheel, *Tipuana tipu*, and Coral Tree. Most of the tropical vines need the summer heat to become established;—the Easter Lily Vine, *Beaumontia*, all the *Bignonia*s, *Passion Vine*, *Bougainvillea* vine and bush, *Cup of Gold*, *Stephanotis* and *Streptosolen*. Nearly all of the flowering shrubs benefit from summer planting;—*Hibiscus*, *Calliandra*, *Jacobi*, *Lantana*, *Jessamine*, *Princess Flower*, and *Gardenia*. *Gardenias* like lots of sun especially along the Coast, inland they may do better in partial shade, but it is not a shade loving plant. Place it where it is protected from the wind. It will just sit and sulk in a windy spot. Years ago Maria Wilkes gave this formula for *Gardenia* Food: 4 parts blood meal, 4 parts cottonseed meal and two parts bone meal. Mix thoroughly and apply at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ cup to a 2 foot plant at monthly intervals during the summer. Do not feed in the winter months. In the Spring apply one half this amount each month until summer then increase it to $\frac{1}{2}$ cup.

All of the *Gazania*s fare better with summer planting. Summer is also the best time to plant one of the Hybrid *Bermuda* Lawns. The new variety *Tiffdwarf*, is available in stolens now. It is the easiest to maintain;—you need to mow it only once every two or

three weeks and it stays greener in the winter. Mow *Bluegrass* Lawns at least one and one-half inches high and keep them well fertilized. It will take less water to keep them healthy and vigorous.

When you buy plants in cans at the nursery you always ask the nurseryman to cut the can, and of course your intentions are that you will plant it that day, but plans can always go awry. When you finally get around to plant, examine the root ball to see if it has dried out. If it has dried out immerse the root ball in a pail or tub of water until it is thoroughly soaked. If you plant it with a dry root ball, not a drop of water will ever penetrate it, no matter how much you water the plant in the future. This accounts for a great many failures of perennials, shrubs and trees. Another mistake is to work steer manure into the soil that is placed around the root ball at the time of planting. This will burn the roots of the plant. Use one of the planter mixes. Another common mistake made in transplanting plants from cans into containers is the use of planter mix only, applied around the root ball. When you water, the water will go quite rapidly through the very porous planter mix and not a drop will penetrate the root ball of the transplanted plant. Mix enough soil with the planter mix to bring it to the same consistency as that of the soil the plant is growing in.

Have you given up on annuals? If so try some of the new improved easy-to-grow varieties that make it possible to have a more colorful garden with a minimum of effort. New varieties are bred to grow and bloom more uniformly, eliminating much of the trimming and pinching, staking and tying required with many of the older varieties. *Ageratum Blue Blazer*, new

last year became extremely popular because of its early long-blooming habit. It will reseed. Dwarf Marigold **Yellow Nugget** is the most outstanding dwarf marigold ever offered. Marigold **Golden Jubilee**, (1967 All America selection) is a new F1 Hybrid. The plants naturally grow thick and bushy to about 2 feet tall and are literally covered with huge 3 inch fully double blooms of bright gold. Foxy **Foxglove** another 1967 All America selection is an annual that produces tall stalks of colorful bloom to 3 feet tall. They are ideal for accent in the border or in clumps among other flowers and shrubs. The Hybridists have not neglected the *Petunia*. You will find many new varieties including two new all-double *Petunias*, **Blue Danube** and **Valentine**, the first real red all-double *Petunia* with large 3 inch flowers.

The *Marguerites* make excellent pot plants that are much easier to keep under control than those planted in the border. Enrich the potting soil you use with these by being generous with one of the composted city sludges. Also try some of the new improved *Pelargoniums*. Do a lot of pinching back when they are small to make them bushy. They will reward you with more bloom than foliage. Also use one of the fertilizers with little or no nitrogen. Nitrogen has a tendency to retard bloom and make the plant leggy. *Felicia aethiopica* is an improved type of the old *Blue Marguerite*,—the flowers are a deeper blue with better foliage and habit of growth. It is ideal for mixed borders or you can use it on a bank or in the parking strip. Also try it with *Yellow Marguerites* in a planter or large tub.

The secret of growing all these beautiful flowers is in soil preparation. Be generous in adding soil amendments, mixing them into the soil thoroughly. The ideal way is with a power tiller but it can be done efficiently by hand.

July makes watering one of the most important things you do. Trees require deep soaking so each tree has to be done individually. Shrubs need water down to a depth of 3 feet, and perennials and annuals to eighteen inches deep. If we follow the ideal watering practice of watering deeply and then water again when almost all of the reserve supply is used up, we would probably use less than half the water we are now in the habit of applying. This can be tested with tensiometers, they are not cheap but they will pay for themselves in time.

With the high price of vegetables many gardeners are thinking of setting aside part of their garden to grow some. A deep well drained soil is ideal; however, few have it in San Diego and vicinity but don't let that discourage you. If your soil is extremely shallow you can make raised beds of 2" x 12" redwood planks filling them with a sandy loam soil that you would have to enrich. You can grow tomatoes in a five gallon can. The soil should be at least 25% compost or one of the composted sludges, of course the plant will not reach the size of one in the ground but you will have lots of tomatoes.

Use one of the all purpose fertilizers the same as you would for vegetables in the garden. If space is limited you can construct a lath trellis spacing the lath 8 inches apart, lean it against a fence and set the tomato seed at the base and train the vine on the trellis.

Nine times out of ten the gardener neglects to thin out carrots and beets when they are young;—this results in small crowded vegetables. Be ruthless about it. Be sure to fertilize as soon as the young plants start to show vigorous growth. The faster they grow the more succulent they will be. Remember these suggestions to help you to a more enjoyable garden.

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Fuchsias

by Morrison W. Doty

San Diego Fuchsia Society

AFTER AN unusually good rainfall in Southern California at this time, our Fuchsias should enter the heavy blooming season pretty well-grown. Healthy, well-established old bushes and most plants in the ground may now need little care beyond regular watering every few days, a mild pest-prevention spray, and fish-emulsion feeding perhaps 2 or 3 weeks apart. However this is not true of your beautiful baskets and container plants. Remember that **water** or the lack of it, is their life or death. Most of the so-called mysterious losses of fine container plants every season, seem traceable to their drying out before the owner realized it, especially in cool foggy weather, with occasional winds or even a few hours of high heat.

Frequency of watering depends upon 3 or 4 things besides temperature; such as types of containers, soil

mixture, size of plant exposure, and even its variety and length of time in the container. Redwood boxes, or other containers with metal or impervious liners hold moisture longer, and soil that includes some clay loam, heavy leaf mold, sponge rock, or good peat help the roots to keep a moist center of life longer. But peat once entirely dried out may be worthless later. Too light, unfamiliar soil mixes that allow water to run through too quickly carrying away most of the nutrient also, may easily cause the death of some plants at your first absence, or neglect to water often, during only a few days of dry heat may have the same effect. So it is best to finger-test the soil for moisture underneath in very dry or windy weather, every day or two, especially baskets of big plants, even if the nights are foggy and chilly.

The best time to water is in the cool of the day, mornings or evenings, when the foliage may be sprayed sharply both below and above to dislodge most pests, and refresh the plant. A fogging nozzle to make a mist around them is a great help, since it makes our semi-desert air a little more like their natural rain-forest habitat. Every few days good deep watering to leech out the unwanted salts and alkali, that afflict our imported water here, should be remembered. Don't spray the leaves of a wilted hot dry plant (making water burns) nor try to feed it until it has recovered from its wilt. Being hearty adaptable feeders, Fuchsias will do well on most well balanced fertilizers. Fish-emulsion concentrates, such as Country Squire, Arago, Blue Whale, among others, are very satisfactory in this area. For heavy bloom this time of year, a formula of 4 or 6 -10-8 fish-concentrate applied every ten days or two weeks is favored, in the proportion of 1 tablespoon to a gallon of water. There is now available a new type fertilizer, composed largely of granulated magnesium ammonium phosphate and granulated magnesium potassium phosphate (low in nitrates and potash, but high in phosphates) that is intended to release itself as it can be accepted, slowly over a period of months, like a coated fertilizer, but longer lasting. However it has not been tried long enough here to determine its merits yet.

Fuchsias that are kept well watered, nourished and vigorous are not prone to plant diseases. If infected from bad nursery stock, or neglect, infestation of thrip, white fly, red spider mites, or aphid, is possible, but can be easily controlled with the many sprays available at good Fuchsia nurseries. Some now claim to be even better and safer than the old standby Lindane and Malathion compounds. The systemic long-lasting pesticides are also urged upon us too. A good mild preventive spray which forestalls any infestation, is still a good idea for the small grower, and always use sprays as mild as possible. This area is fortunate in having many good nurseries that specialize in Fuchsias. (some of which may be called tourist attractions in beauty) and all of them have helpful information to offer, together with hundreds of varieties, both new and old. Browsing the nurseries, and exchanging cuttings with your garden friends adds variety to your Fuchsia planting. Visit or join a Fuchsia or Garden Society, and don't miss the breath-taking displays of Fuchsias at our own Fair Flower Shows.

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Container Gardening

by an Apartment Dweller

by Helen Hegyi

You asked for comments covering a small garden. Possibly the following may be of some help.—

I garden in containers and the containers are in the ground, mostly in a raised bed. To protect the plants, the bed is of sand, as I suffer from an overactive watering can, being an Easterner. The chief requisite, really, is good drainage. For pots, I use plastic bleach containers of various sizes, with slashed sides and well-slashed bottoms. To cut down on the frequency of watering, I double-pot the plants. The larger outside pot does not have the slashed sides; just slashed bottom. The space between the two pots is filled with sand, peat moss, crushed stone, limestone pebbles, ground eggshell and the like. It all depends on the plant and what I have available. The roots are thus able to get out through the slashed sides, if they must, and wander about in the space between and have an altogether frustrating time of it.

This makes it simple to move plants about as the need arises and the fancy strikes. Tender plants are taken up and kept in a little cold-frame for the winter. Then, when I lift the plants, —to save space, I remove the outer pot and rub off the roots that wandered outside.

Because of lack of space, I underpot and overwater. I rarely water with just plain water, always adding a little very, VERY highly-diluted fertilizer, using a watering can. Or I water with the hose first and the watering can with the fertilizer thereafter. The fertilizer varies; steer or dairy infusion or a concentrated complete fertilizer. When potting, I also add bits of the various organic fertilizers, even crushed charcoal, eggshell, oystershell, varying the mess with the plant needs and my fertile imagination. It is good to alternate the fertilizer with one having a low-nitrogen content for bloom and spine growth, particularly for pushing bloom. A good dose of wood ashes having the natural crushed charcoal in it, is a superb "perker-upper" in very early spring.

I keep my plants small and compact by pinching out, using taller plants for background, generally. There are so many fine plants having attractive leaf, stem and spine color;—different shades of red, green and white,—that flowers are only an extra bonus. I spray regularly and manage to keep insects under control. Would that I could do as well about the passing small fry! My garden is on an unfenced public alley near a school. I am at the mercy of footballs, bicycles, running feet, dogs, cats, and people. I guess they like pretty places too. Yet in spite of all of the above, I seem to grow a modest few fairly attractive specimen plants. Oh,—and in closing, —I always hold appropriate services (i.e. uncouth remarks) when I lose a plant, and go on from there. Amen. I cannot be lucky all the time, can I? I have no more skill than anyone else. The plants have to have a deep desire for survival to counteract my gardening efforts.

—When asked the size of her small apartment garden, Mrs. Hegyi said, "No larger than the top of a breakfast room table. She grows mostly cactus and succulents, but some other plants as well.

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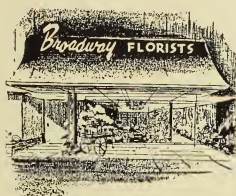
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Irises

by Betty Springer Van Dusen

Now that the irises have just fulfilled their promise of beautifying your garden they would appreciate a good feeding and nice rest. One of the most popular fertilizer formulas used at this time of year is a 12-12-12 or something similar with a high nitrogen content. If plants are to be divided and reset at this time the fertilizing can be part of the soil preparation. If an iris that was just planted last summer has grown into a large clump with many fans it should be divided now even though it is only a year old. In general about every two or three years is sufficient unless a variety is particularly vigorous. The heaviest bloom usually comes on a two year old clump. In selecting rhizomes from the clump to reset, choose those husky ones from the outer edges of the clump, discarding the old spent rhizomes left in the center and the stalks that have bloomed. Many people feel that it is of no advantage, however, for a rhizome to be overly large, for often these are just too fat and may produce just one or two huge fans which may all go to bloom the next season leaving no increase. When dug, the leaves should be trimmed off at about one half their length and the rhizome left in the sun for an hour or two to dry

before planting again. Do not cut back the leaves if they are to remain in the ground.

July is the main month for planting new rhizomes as well as dividing the established clumps. In either case the soil should be prepared in advance of planting by adding organic matter of various forms, fertilizer, and perhaps gypsum and digging it all in.

It has been noted that iris plants will keep a better shape if the point of the rhizome is planted pointing toward the south. This keeps the fans from bending over backward reaching for the light. Also, irises like to have the sun shine right down into the heart of the clump and by planting them in this manner they will send up their fans in a semicircle thus forming a little pocket of warmth above the original rhizome. Fallen leaves and companion plants should also be kept out of the heart of the clumps to keep them from shading the ground there.

Preparing for good drainage is one of the most important aspects of soil preparation. Irises should only be planted where the water can drain away from the rhizome as quickly as possible. In some cases it may be necessary to plant them on little mounds or in raised beds where drainage would be a problem. Those

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gardeners living in the beach areas or near to the coast will find that providing their irises with additional humus and fertilizer will give better results.

While all colors seem to blend in nature, special color harmonies can be planned for the best effect. Whether planning an all-iris bed or a mixed border the following color combination might be helpful. Varieties which have standards of one color and falls of another, as well as plicatas (those which have a ground color bordered by a different color) can well combine with irises or other flowers in a tone that repeats one of these colors. Cream, lemon yellow & pale blue are the most versatile colors of all, combining well with almost all other shades. Pale pinks combine best with medium blues, purple, creamy yellows, whites and other shades of pink, while deep pinks are at their best with light blues or cream. Deep yellows make good companions for medium blue, deep rose, violet blends, red-violet, and pale yellow. The rich gold shades are striking with reds, violets and deep rose. A very lovely combination is lemon yellow with deep blue and violet. The coppery-red tones look best with pale creamy yellows, very pale blue and medium gold. The rich browns are nice with pale blues, yellows, orange, and pink, too. The rich salmon and orange shades are very striking when planted with medium blue and purple.

Perhaps you can dream up different combinations and enjoy planning a color scheme which will enhance the beauty of your collection of irises.

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Dahlia

by Larry Sisk

MAGAZINE articles and entire chapters of books have been written about the importance of topping and disbudding dahlias. This is the time of year to follow through, if the chore hasn't been done. For exhibition and to get the best out of garden plants, disbranching helps too.

As simple as the operation may seem, it's surprising to learn how many gardeners don't know about topping. The practice is recommended for almost everything that produces flowers: You nip out the growing tip to make the plant branch out so that it will have a better root system and so it will produce more blossoms.

For dahlias, the increased number of blooms per plant is desired only from the smaller varieties, the pompons and the miniatures. (Incidentally, a lot of intelligent gardeners wrongfully refer to pompons as miniatures.)

The time to take out the tops is when the plant develops three or four sets of leaves. Then the tip, or the tip plus the top pair of leaves, should be snapped out or removed with a sharp knife.

To have even more—and smaller—blooms, the plants might be topped again. Or, as the British say, "stopped".

When the plant is topped the first time, sprouts or small branches (or

canes) will develop at each leaf node on both sides of the stem. Thus, if three sets of leaves remain after the topping, the plant will produce six branches, and eight if four sets remain. If the second topping is desired, the growing tip of each branch also should be nipped out after two or three sets of leaves develop on the branch.

This second topping not only will produce more blooms, but it will help keep the poms under two inches as is most desirable, and it will keep the miniatures ideally below four inches. Those are the size requirements for exhibition, and for cutflowers, the smaller ones also are more desirable.

Dahlia varieties of over four inches and up to eight should be held to six or eight branches. That's where the disbranching comes in; if more than the number desired develop on a plant, the surplus should be removed. The recommended system is to disbranch on alternate sides of the main stem and at different levels to maintain good plant balance.

The large varieties, eight inches and up, should be restricted to four or five branches.

When more sprouts or branches appear on the canes of the medium and larger variety plants, all except one at the low part of each cane should be removed. That one will produce the second crop of flowers.

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At the top of each remaining branch—all varieties, from pompons to the giants—three buds will appear. For exhibition, only one bud should be permitted to remain and develop into a blossom. The center bud usually will be best. If lots of flowers are desired above bloom quality on the smaller varieties, the gardener might permit all the buds to remain.

For those who want more flower and more color, the small varieties are recommended. It isn't practical to plant the larger-flowering varieties and then try to keep the blooms small; reduced bloom quality would make the results unsatisfactory. The larger flowers are supposed to be large, and the gardener should help them fulfill their purpose.

Topping, disbranching and disbudding are essential for the grower who exhibits. They are part of the "science" of timing plants to bloom at precisely the right time—for the fair, or for the shows.

Usually the plants are ready for topping about 30 days after planting. A few are ready sooner and a few later; you learn by watching each variety or type.

Then, 17 days to 80 days after topping, according to the size of the variety, blooms should be ready. Ninety per cent of the varieties producing flowers of six to eight or nine inches will bloom in about 60 days after topping, or after a specific cane is topped or stopped. The over-ten-inch varieties take about 60 to 75 days ahead of when you want flowers, and, presto, there the blooms are.

By topping (timing) various plants on different days, there is a better chance of "covering" a certain date.

The dahlia grower who tries it and is successful gets an unsurpassed thrill; and, becomes an expert.

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SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY

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Roses

by J. Wells Hershey and Mary Jane Hershey

JUNE is busting out all over, and isn't it a beautiful sight? Each year is different in our garden, but after so many days of cloudy, rainy weather, we enjoyed the procession of color in our rose garden more than in previous years. Having lived in Southern California for over three decades, it must be said that the weather this Spring was most "unusual". We did have sunshine for our rose show on April 22 and April 23, also in the hearts of Mr. and Mrs. J. Paul Gaughen, whose rose, First Love, was Queen of the Show. The rose bush, a birthday gift from Mr. Gaughen to his wife three years ago, gave them the Queen of the Show on their wedding Anniversary!! But the rose bush did not stop there, for a week later at the Coronado Flower Show it again produced a Queen of the rose show for them!! Congratulations! La Jolla was Queen of the Spring rose show of the Pacific Rose Society, Pasadena, with Charlotte Armstrong, the King and Columbus Queen, the Princess of this show. Roses in the pink color class must like wet feet?

In the month of June and the month of July and each month until October, you should continue with your established program of spraying and feeding. The mulch which you have applied (we hope) should be helping you by preventing evaporation

of moisture and maintaining aeration in the soil without surface cultivation; by keeping the ground cooler (up to 8 to 10 degrees) and aiding in weed control. A magazine article SUMMER MULCHING by Cathy Pruden, in American Rose Magazine (May '67) lists thirty-six mulches which are used in home gardens in our country today, and includes some comments on advantages and disadvantages, and factors you should be familiar with in using them. The availability and cost per square or cubic feet will be one of the deciding factors when selecting a mulch for this area.

In Southern California the rose bush could be classed as an evergreen shrub. Newcomers to our area become aware of this as they wait in vain for their rose bushes to go dormant so that they can prune. Occasionally it is asked if roses should be given a summer rest by withholding water from them in July and August. No! If a rose bush does not go dormant in this area even in the coldest winters, why would you treat it differently than other evergreens during the hottest period of the year when the plants need water the most? Adequate watering of your rose bed means that it would not be allowed to become dry at any time, it means that you should water even in the winter if there is not enough rain to keep them moist.

How to pick a rose is a question that is often asked by new rose growers and its answer depends on the condition of the bush, the variety, and the desires of the grower. Good foliage is one of the secrets of good roses, as it is the factory that produces food for the plant, aided by the sun, fertilizer, water, and soil. When picking a bloom, you should leave at least three leaves (with at least five leaflets on each leaf) on the stem which connects to the bush. This short pruning should produce long stems and be in flower in about six weeks. If you leave five or six leaves, they should bloom in five weeks but with shorter stems. If you cut to the first five leaflet leaf from the seed pod, you will have two short stemmed flowers

in bloom in four weeks. It is best not to allow the seed pod to set as the setting process robs plants of stored food that could provide energy for new growth and more flowers. Light pruning (cutting off faded blooms to the first five leaflet leaf from the bloom) on weak growing rose bushes will enable them to produce more food from the extra leaves left on the plant and help them to become strong plants. Some varieties of roses are stingy with their blooms, but their blooms are often worth waiting for—we have one bush that everytime we say that we are going to remove it, starts growing and producing blooms so lovely that we forgive it for being a sparse bloomer.

Have you noticed the beautiful roses in bloom at your favorite nursery? These bushes, in five gallon containers, are an excellent buy for the weekend gardener. Not only does the nurseryman do the bare-root planting and growing of the bush, but you can easily examine it for strong canes and good growth habits. By studying the latest introductions of roses grown in this manner, you can determine whether it will fit into your rose garden plan prior to planting in its permanent position.

Speaking of the latest introductions of roses, Fred W. Walters of Rancho Bernardo said that the All American Roses for 1967 were the nicest set of All American winners we have had; that the color of Bewitched hybrid tea was outstanding, a clear pink, large flowers and a good keeper when picked; that he liked the grandiflora, Lucky Lady better the second year, it is real nice; that Gay Princess, floribunda, is a good grower, and in bloom all the time, and that he liked the floribunda, Roman Holiday from the start.

In discussing other new roses, Mr. Walters said that "Lady X is one of the nicest bushes we have in the garden this year." He likes its color and fragrance; that Bob Hope is one of the fastest growers, is a good red and has good fragrance; that Lemon Spice is very nice, has an intense spicy fragrance, and that Simon Bolivar, hybrid tea, is doing better this year than last year.

We noticed that another new rose, the floribunda, Elizabeth of Glamis was the best floribunda of two Spring Rose Shows (San Diego Rose Society and Pacific Rose Society) winning two trophies for Dr. and Mrs. Donald A. Wilson.

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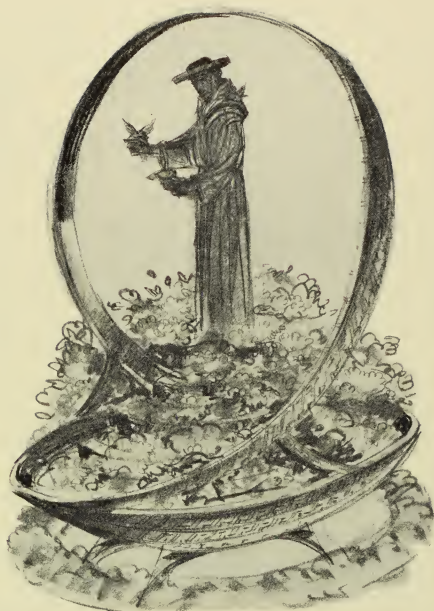


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200th Birthday Floral Committee

by Joan Betts and Alice Zukor

Richard Gabriel Chase



MUCH interest is being shown in a wildflower planting program for our city and county vacant lots and slopes, with the co-operation of the Fire Department and Anti-litter campaign groups, and spotlighting our Golden Poppy—Official State Flower. Youth groups will be asked to participate with a special celebration of our Official State Flower on February 15-16, 1969 (Saturday and Sunday.) The poppy will really add to our San Diego floral pot-of-gold plans.

Richard Gabriel Chase, our talented artist submitted the above drawing that is far lovelier than the first concept;—one that lends itself from all angles, as a permanent statue worthy of acceptance by city and county. When the new design was unveiled, the Executive Board of the 200th Anniversary Celebration admired this concept representing the early padres who

came with seeds, plants and cuttings to beautify and make fruitful the new land. The graceful handle of the basket is an engineering challenge but the construction problems can be solved. The whole sculpture will stand 17 feet high. Since cost per unit is more expensive we will have to wait for the first unit. When funds are raised to meet the cost of the terra cotta concrete figures, they will be placed in key locations.

The County Board of Supervisors has shown interest and has offered to furnish labor, equipment and landscape work for the completed statues—a real milestone. Mr. J. A. Bel-leau, General Park Supervisor, Park Division, City Public Works Department, stated at the March 16th meeting that it might be possible for the city to maintain units on city property providing budgetary considerations would be available and with decision made by higher authority. These tentative offers were most appreciated by the Board of Directors of the 200 Anniversary at their Board meeting.

We wish to thank publicly Agricultural Commissioner James Moon, of the County Department of Agriculture

for promoting the "Flower Basket of the Nation" theme in his News Releases. Our appreciation also to the San Diego Junior Womens' Club for co-ordinating our theme with their successful Lunada de Alcala dinner to benefit the restoration of Mission de Alcala.

Mr. William Dotson, District Advance Planning Engineer for the State Department of Highways presented beautiful slides and an enlightening talk on the aesthetic side of highway planning, with emphasis on the beautification of our new highways that is planned to be completed before 1969.

The Floral Committee has been asked to endorse the selection of a City Tree, which is under way by other groups, hoping for completed action before 1969. Work is still progressing on our Master Calendar to avoid duplicating dates of Flower Shows in 1969 with the San Diego Camellia Society announcing their Camellia Show on February 8-9, 1969. On April 28, 1966, the City Council designated the Carnation as our City Flower. We hope to give special recognition to our official City Flower on this date in 1969, as Carnation Day.

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Third Tuesday, Floral Building, 8 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Emmett W. Fowler, Jr.
1025 Havenhurst Dr., La Jolla 92037
FLOWER ARRANGERS', GUILD OF SAN DIEGO
First Thursday, Floral Building, 7:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Edith G. Goss
7065 Neptune Pl., La Jolla 92037

COORDINATING GROUPS

FLORAL COMMITTEE, 200th ANNIVERSARY, Inc.
Bi-monthly, 3rd Thursday, Floral Building, 7:30 p.m.
Joan Betts, Chairman, Alice Zukor, Co-Chairman
291-1969
1600 Pacific Hwy., Rm. 801, S.D., Cal. 92101
SAN DIEGO BOTANICAL GARDEN FOUNDATION, Inc.
Second Thursday, Floral Building
P.O. Box 12162, S. D., Calif. 92112
Pres.: Virgil Schade
1633 Pennsylvania

AFFILIATE MEMBERS 1967

CIVIC CENTER GARDEN CLUB
Meets every Thursday, 12m to 1 p.m.
Garden House, Grapes and 101 Civic Center
Pres.: Mrs. Donald A. Inis
1827 Putterbaugh, S.D. 92103
Pres.: James Saraceno
3346 Lloyd St., S.D. 92117
GENERAL DYNAMICS GARDEN CLUB
First Wednesday, Floral Building, 7:30 p.m.
Pres.: William D. Spann
4101 Mt. Bigelow Wy., S.D. 92111
Pres. Dir.: J. E. H. Hensley
3503 Yosemite St., S.D. 92109
MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF SAN DIEGO CO.
Fourth Monday, Floral Bldg., 7:30 p.m.
Pres. John G. Farley
2217 Whitman St., S.D. 92103
Pres. Dr.: J. W. Trowell
4950 Canterbury Drive, S.D. 92116

ORGANIC GARDENING CLUB
Third Friday, Floral Building, 7:30 p.m.
Pres.: C. Frank Carpenter
5281 Remington Rd., S.D. 92115
Pres.: Mrs. Mary Panek
4680 Del Monte Ave., S.D. 92107
POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB
First Friday, Floral Bldg., 10 a.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Philip Hardie
3756 Kingsley St., S.D. 92106
Pres.: Louis J. Kulot
2732 Azalea Dr., S.D. 92106

SAN DIEGO BONSAI SOCIETY, INC.
Second Sunday, Floral Bldg., 1-5 p.m.
Pres.: Mas Takashishi
6655 Detroit St., San Diego
Rep.: Mrs. Helen G. Howe
4767/2 Lantana Dr., S.D. 92105
SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCULENT SOCIETY
First Saturday, Floral Building, 2 p.m.
Pres.: Reuben W. Smith
1041 Le Roy St., S.D. 92106
Pres.: Frank Mousseau
5955 Lauretta, S.D. 92110

SAN DIEGO CALCEA SOCIETY
Second Friday, Floral Building, 7:30 p.m.
Pres.: Samuel E. Foster
202 Carter, El Cajon 92020
Rep.: Mrs. Lester Crowder
3130 Second St., S.D. 92103
S.D. CHAPTER CALIF. ASS'N NURSERYMEN
Second and Fourth Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Pres.: John Basney
4731 Conrad Ave., S.D. 92117
Rep.: John Basney
4731 Conrad Ave., S.D. 92117

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY
Fourth Tuesday, Floral Building, 7:30 p.m.
Pres.: Gerald L. Lohmann
4564/4 Arizona St., S.D. 92116
Rep.: Mrs. R. M. Adkisson
3944 Centre St., S.D. 92103
SD-IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SOCIETY
Meets 3rd Sunday, Floral Bldg., 2:30 p.m.
Pres.: Arthur B. Day
279 J St., Chula Vista 92010
Rep.: Arthur B. Day

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY
First Tuesday, Floral Building, 8 p.m.
Pres.: James C. Laughter
5937 Byron-Gordon St., S.D. 92114
Rep.: Byron Gordon
5904 Mt. La Platta Dr., S.D. 92117
SAN DIEGO FUCHSIA SOCIETY
Second Monday, Floral Building, 8 p.m.
Pres.: William C. Knott
1912 David St., S.D. 92111
Rep.: Mrs. William Knott

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY
Third Monday, Floral Building, 8 p.m.
Pres.: Harry B. Carter
4671 Toni Lane, S.D. 92116
Rep.: Mrs. Felix White
5282 Imperial Ave., S.D. 92114
SOUTHWESTERN GROUP, JUDGES' COUNCIL
CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
First Wednesday, Floral Building, 10:30 a.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Harry K. Ford
4851 Lorraine Dr., S.D. 92115
Rep.: Mrs. Roland S. Hoyt
2271 Ft. Stockton Dr., S.D. 92103

OTHER GARDEN CLUBS

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BEGONIA SOCIETY
Third Friday, Homes of Members, 10 a.m.
Pres.: Miss Myrtle Patterson
4310 Piedmont Dr., S.D. 92107
BERNARDO BEAUTIFUL & GARDEN CLUB
First Wednesday, 1300 Seven Oaks Community Center, Bernardo Oaks Dr., Rancho Bernardo
Pres.: Fred W. Walters
12048 Callado Dr., S.D. 92128

CARLSBAD GARDEN CLUB
First Friday, VW W Hall, Carlsbad, 1:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Wanda Bond
VFW Hall, Pico Pico & Oak St., Carlsbad 92008

CHULA VISTA FUCHSIA SOCIETY
Second Tuesday, Norman Park Recreation Center, 7:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mr. August H. Goerke
481 Flower, Chula Vista 92110

CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB
Meets 3rd Wednesday 1:00 p.m.
C.V. Woman's Club Bldg., 357 G St., C.V.
Pres.: Mrs. M. D. Holmes
68 E. Sierra Way, C.V. 92010

CLAIREMONT GARDEN CLUB
Meets Third Tuesday, 9:30 a.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Stanley Fletcher
3090 Chicago St., S.D. 92117

CORONADO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
Meets 1st Tuesday, Red Cross Bldg., 1113 Adella Lane
Pres.: Capt. Richard W. Parker, U.S.N. Retired
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CROSS-TOWN GARDEN CLUB
Fourth Tuesday, E. San Diego Woman's Club, 4037 7th St., S.D. 92115, 8 p.m.
Pres.: Charles Williams
4204 46th, S.D. 92115

CROWN GARDEN CLUB OF CORONADO
Fourth Thursday, Red Cross Bldg., 1113 Adella Lane, 9:30 a.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Robert H. Keen
1111 Coronado, Coronado 92118

DELCAIDA GARDEN CLUB
First Wednesday, Encinitas Union Elementary School, 7:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. I. F. Nichols
159 Diana, Lescadia 92046

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB (PAUMA VLY.)
Meets 2nd Tuesday, Pauma Valley Center 1:30
Pres.: Mrs. William C. Myers
Country Club Dr., Pauma Valley 92061

EMBARK GARDEN CLUB
3rd Friday, Veterans Memorial Hall 1:00 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Lawrence Mineah
201 S. Union, Escondido

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB
Last Thursday, Fallbrook Woman's Clubhouse, 1:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Roman E. Shore
151 Poplar Tree Lane, Fallbrook 92028

GROSSMONT GARDEN CLUB
Second Monday, La Mesa Chamber of Commerce Bldg., University Ave., La Mesa 92041
Pres.: James Gulliver
8558 Boulder Dr., La Mesa 92041

IMPERIAL BEACH GARDEN CLUB
3rd Tuesday, Imperial Beach Civic Center, 1:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Alice Loomis
874 Fourth, Imperial Beach 92032

LAKESIDE GARDEN CLUB
2nd Monday, Lakeside Farm School, 7:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Louis Griffin
12024 Lakeside Ave., Lakeside 92040

LA MESA GARDEN CLUB
(Garden Sec. Women's Club)
3rd Thursday, La Mesa Women's Club, 1:00 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Allen W. Carpenter
5169 Ewing, S.D.

LAS JARDINERAS
Third Monday, 10 a.m. Homes of members
Pres.: Mrs. James I. Robinson
3443 Whittier St., S.D. 92106

MISSION GARDEN CLUB
Meets First Monday, 8 p.m.
Barbour Hall, Parkland and University
Pres.: Dr. R. J. McBride
4635 Panoramica Drive, La Mesa
Rep.: John Bohle
3145 No. Mt. View Dr., S.D. 92116

NATIONAL CITY GARDEN CLUB
Third Wednesday, National City Community Bldg., 7:30 p.m.
Pres.: Arthur A. Agnew
420 Twelfth St., National City 92050

NORTH COUNTY ROSE SOCIETY
Meets First Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. at Palomar College
Pres.: James A. Kirk
15131 Espola Road, Poway

NORTH COUNTY SHADE PLANT CLUB
Second Sat., 1:00 p.m. Seacoast Hall, Encinitas
Pres.: E. Grove Teaney
114 N. Main Wy., Vista

O. C. IT GROW GARDEN CLUB
Second Wednesday, S. Oceanside School Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mr. Earl H. McPherson
2476 Pico Dr., Oceanside, Calif. 92079

PACIFIC BEACH GARDEN CLUB
Meets second Monday, 7:30 p.m. Community Club House, Cheslam and Diamond Sts., Pacific Beach
Pres.: Mrs. Charles E. Domler
5158 Hastings Rd., S.D. 92116

PALOMAR CACTUS & SUCULENT SOCIETY
Third Saturday, 1 p.m., Palomar College Foreign Language Building, Room F22
Pres.: Mrs. Kathryn E. Dwyer
P.O. Box 111, Del Mar 92014

PALOMAR ORCHARD SOCIETY
Meets Third Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Avocado Inn, 114 Hillside Terrace, Vista
Pres.: Eugene A. Foster
932 Crest Drive, Encinitas

POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
2nd Wednesday, 9:30 a.m., Community Church
Pres.: Mrs. Leo Ostrom
15222 Hilltop Circle, Poway 92064

RANCHO SANTE FE GARDEN CLUB
Second Tuesday, Club House, 2:00 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. John E. Grimm
P. O. Box 241, Rancho Santa Fe 92067

SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB
Fourth Tuesday, San Carlos Club, 6955 Golfcrest Drive
Pres.: Mrs. Glenn F. Bliss
6275 Cowles Mountain, San Diego 92119

SAN DIEGO BRANCH AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
Fourth Monday, Barbour Hall - Univ & Pershing, 8 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Eugene Cooper
4664 Arista Dr., S.D. 92103

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY
Second Monday, 7:30 p.m. Meets at home of president
Pres.: Mrs. Cloves Hardin
9295 Harness Rd., Spring Valley 92077

SAN DIEGO WOMEN'S CLUB Home & Garden Sec.
Pres.: Mrs. Lawrence A. Larson
1468 C St., S.D.

SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB
Third Wednesday, Seacoast Savings Building, Encinitas, 10 a.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Waldo Vogt
773 Barbara Ave., Solana Beach 92075

SAN MIGUEL BRANCH AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
First Wed., Youth Center, Lemon Grove
Pres.: Ferris Jones
4810 S. Main St., S.D.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
Second Monday, Ramona Women's Club House, 5th and Main, 9:30 a.m.
Pres.: Mrs. W. F. Foubb
161 Steffy Lane, Ramona 92065

SANTEE WOMEN'S CLUB Garden Sec.
Pres.: Mrs. Leon Roloff
9138 Willow Grove, Santee 92071

SWEETWATER JUNIOR GARDEN CLUB
First Monday, 7:30 p.m. Meets at home of Temporary President
Temp. Pres.: Cloves Hardin
9195 Harness Rd., Spring Valley 92077

VALLE GARDEN CLUB, POWAY
Meets 3rd Thursday, 10 a.m. Homes of members
Pres.: Mrs. Brown Thompson
111 6709 Espola Rd., Poway 92064

VISTA GARDEN CLUB
First Friday, Vista Rec. Center 1:00 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Henry C. Shultz
1847 Alta Vista, Vista 92083

VISTA MESA GARDEN CLUB
Second Tuesday, 2 p.m. Family Association Center
Pres.: Mrs. Clara Haskins
2332 El Prado, Lemon Grove 92045

